further: he actually said that wealth was an *obstacle* to obtaining eternal life. "The Eye of the Needle" probably refers to a narrow gate in the walls of Jerusalem. Imagine a camel being taken into the city through this gate. If it is very heavily laden, the only way you can get the animal through is to take the burden off its back, send it on, and then re-load it on the other side. Jesus is saying that if you want to enter the Kingdom of God your riches will obstruct you. The more possessions you have, the more your priorities are dominated by looking after them.

Later in Jerusalem a lawyer's question about which are the greatest commandments (12:28-34), is based on the fact that in the Old Testament laws there are 248 "do"'s and 365 "don't"'s. The answer combines *Deuteronomy* 6:4-5 (the *Shema* - Hebrew for "Hear" - which Jews recited daily) with *Leviticus* 19:18. This insight into the spiritual and moral nature of true religion is already found in the Old Testament (*I Samuel* 15:22; *Hosea* 6:6). The requirements of the Kingdom are spelled out in the Scriptures for all who have eyes to see.

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